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# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

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## WORLD HORSE NUMBERS IN 1952 AND 1953

### Work Stock in Specified Countries

World horse numbers at the beginning of 1953 were estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service at about 75 million head. This is a decline of nearly 1 million head from 1952 numbers and 1.2 million from the postwar peak of 76.4 million in 1950 and 1951. Numbers are now about 22 percent below the 1934-38 prewar average.

The world pattern of changes in horse numbers reflect moderate recovery from war devastation immediately after World War II, followed by declining numbers as mechanization progressed in the more agriculturally developed countries in 1947 and 1948 and then by more increases from 1949-51 as other areas of the world stepped up agricultural output but because of lack of tractors had to depend on horse power. More extensive mechanization in the more advanced farming areas of the world caused a further decline in 1952 and 1953 in spite of the continued upward trend in horse numbers in U.S.S.R., Asia and parts of Africa.

HORSES: Estimated world total, by continents or areas,  
averages 1934-38 and 1946-50, annual 1950-1953

| Continent<br>or<br>area | Average   |           | 1950      | 1951      | 1952 1/   | 1953 1/   |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                         | 1934-38   | 1946-50   |           |           |           |           |
|                         | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands |
| North America           | 18,600    | 13,000    | 11,900    | 11,000    | 10,100    | 9,500     |
| Europe                  | 19,200    | 16,000    | 16,400    | 16,300    | 16,100    | 15,800    |
| U.S.S.R.                | 19,900    | 2/        | 2/        | 13,700    | 14,700    | 2/        |
| Asia                    | 15,800    | 12,500    | 12,700    | 12,700    | 12,800    | 12,900    |
| South America           | 17,700    | 17,600    | 17,600    | 17,600    | 17,400    | 17,400    |
| Africa                  | 3,100     | 3,900     | 3,800     | 3,900     | 3,900     | 3,800     |
| Oceania                 | 2,100     | 1,400     | 1,300     | 1,200     | 1,100     | 1,100     |
| Total                   | 96,400    | 75,700    | 76,400    | 76,400    | 76,100    | 75,200    |

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Estimate included in the total.

A summary of this information was published in the June 15, 1953 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.



Major decreases in horse numbers since prewar have taken place in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. This group of countries had made considerable progress in replacing horses with tractors prior to World War II, have for the most part a type of agriculture which can benefit through mechanization, and, also, have had machinery available either through manufacture or through purchase from other countries.

Smaller decreases have occurred in Cuba, most Western European countries, Greece, Japan, the Union of South Africa, and some areas of Asia. Various factors such as small farms not readily adaptable to tractor power, lack of foreign exchange or inability to manufacture equipment and the general state of agricultural development are chiefly responsible for the smaller degree of substitution of machines for horse power.

Numbers in 1953 are above other postwar years and the prewar average in Mexico, Italy, Spain, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and other small areas in Asia and North Africa. These countries as a group have increased agricultural output over the last two decades, calling for more horse power.

There are indications that horse numbers in the U.S.S.R. and several other countries of Eastern Europe have made a fairly substantial recovery in the last few years. They are all, however, considerably below prewar levels.

In general, world horse numbers are likely to remain about the same in the years immediately ahead. The trend since the end of World War II, which saw decreases in the more highly developed agricultural countries and increases in those countries which are coming into a higher level of cultivation, will probably continue so that the net change is not likely to be great.

#### OTHER WORK STOCK

In addition to horses, other work stock, notably mules and asses, oxen, work cows and water buffaloes, provide farm power for a great part of the world, especially in Central and Southern Europe, the Mediterranean area and Asia. Although statistical data are incomplete and scattered, there are indications that oxen and work cow numbers declined somewhat in Europe following the second World War. On the other hand, mules and asses are reported to have increased in Greece, Italy, India, Turkey, Syria and Brazil.

Because of the economic importance of work cows, oxen and water buffaloes as a source of milk and meat, as well as draft power, and their ability, like that of all other work stock, to utilize cheap roughages, they have an assured position in the economy of many small farms. However, some progress has been made in the application of tractor power to small farms, and as further progress is made the importance of work cows in some areas may be expected to decline further.

As a result of increased mechanization in the United States and Canada, mules continued to decline during 1952. In the Near and Far East, water buffaloes have increased in some countries.

During the coming year, mechanization may be expected to continue to contribute materially to the total world farm power. In some European and many Asian countries, however, the lack of working capital together with other economic factors will continue to limit extensive mechanization.

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This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

HORSES: Number in specified countries, averages 1934-38  
and 1946-50, annual 1950-1953

| Continent<br>and<br>country      | Month<br>of 1/<br>estimate         | Average                           |                                      | 1950                        | 1951                  | 1952 2/<br>Thousands  | 1953 2/<br>Thousands  |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                  |                                    | Thousands                         | Thousands                            |                             |                       |                       |                       |
| NORTH AMERICA                    |                                    |                                   |                                      |                             |                       |                       |                       |
| Canada.....                      | June 1                             | 2,864                             | 1,923                                | 1,683                       | 1,304                 | 1,180                 | 1,050                 |
| Mexico.....                      | June                               | 2,199                             | -                                    | 2,900                       | -                     | 2,800                 | -                     |
| United States.....               | Jan. 1                             | 11,570                            | 6,754                                | 5,548                       | 4,993                 | 4,330                 | 3,870                 |
| Cuba.....                        | Dec. 31 1/<br>Estimated total..... | 582 4/<br>18,600                  | 408<br>13,000                        | -<br>11,900                 | -<br>11,000           | 412<br>10,100         | -<br>9,500            |
| EUROPE                           |                                    |                                   |                                      |                             |                       |                       |                       |
| Austria.....                     | Dec. 3 1/<br>Belgium.....          | 4/5/<br>Jan. 1                    | 261<br>245                           | 277<br>282                  | 283<br>247            | 276<br>234            | 267<br>227            |
| Denmark.....                     | July 15                            | 553                               | 572                                  | 502                         | 465                   | 423                   | -                     |
| Finland.....                     | Mar. 1                             | 372                               | 390                                  | 400                         | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| France.....                      | Fall 1/<br>Germany, Western.....   | 2,808<br>Dec. 1 1/<br>Greece..... | 2,370<br>1,596<br>233                | 2,414<br>1,629<br>232       | 2,397<br>1,570<br>251 | 2,380<br>1,455<br>292 | 2,333<br>1,360<br>297 |
| Iceland.....                     | Spring                             | 46                                | 49                                   | 42                          | 42                    | 41                    | -                     |
| Ireland.....                     | June                               | 429                               | 421                                  | 391                         | 367                   | 342                   | -                     |
| Italy.....                       | Jan. 1                             | 801 7/<br>Luxembourg.....         | 760<br>Dec. 1 1/<br>Netherlands..... | 798<br>15<br>327            | -<br>14<br>270        | -<br>14<br>175        | -<br>172              |
| Norway.....                      | June 20                            | 17<br>293                         | 16<br>327                            | 15<br>275                   | 75                    | 75                    | 70                    |
| Portugal.....                    | Dec. 31 1/<br>Spain.....           | 4/5/<br>Dec. 31 1/<br>Sweden..... | 90<br>563<br>615                     | 585<br>509<br>440           | -<br>415<br>131       | -<br>386<br>131       | -<br>-<br>-           |
| Switzerland.....                 | Summer                             | 140                               | 143                                  | 134                         | 478                   | 414                   | -                     |
| United Kingdom.....              | April                              | 1,107                             | 696                                  | 549                         | 1,095                 | 1,096                 | -                     |
| Yugoslavia.....                  | June                               | 1,212 7/<br>Jan. 1                | 950<br>11,600                        | 1,097<br>10,300             | 1,095<br>10,100       | 1,096<br>9,800        | -<br>9,500            |
| Total above.....                 |                                    | 11,600                            | 10,500                               | 10,300                      | 10,100                | 9,800                 | 9,500                 |
| Other Europe.....                |                                    | 7,600                             | 5,500                                | 6,100                       | 6,200                 | 6,300                 | 6,300                 |
| Estimated total.....             |                                    | 19,200                            | 16,000                               | 16,400                      | 16,300                | 16,100                | 15,800                |
| U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)       |                                    |                                   |                                      |                             |                       |                       |                       |
|                                  | Jan. 1                             | 19,900                            | -                                    | -                           | 13,700                | 14,700                | -                     |
| ASIA                             |                                    |                                   |                                      |                             |                       |                       |                       |
| Iran.....                        | Mar. 21                            | 328 7/<br>Iraq.....               | 350<br>189                           | 365<br>184 8/<br>Syria..... | 366<br>400<br>100     | 360<br>420<br>101     | 365<br>-<br>105       |
| Turkey.....                      | Dec. 31 1/<br>Burma.....           | 58<br>915                         | 112<br>1,076                         | 98<br>1,132                 | 100<br>1,140          | 101<br>1,173          | 105<br>1,216          |
| China proper (22 provinces)..... | Dec. 31 1/<br>Manchuria.....       | 57 7/<br>3,772 7/<br>1,948        | 11<br>2,140<br>-                     | -<br>-                      | -<br>-                | -<br>-                | -<br>-                |



ASIA (Continued)

| IIA (Continued)         |            |         |        |        |        |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
|                         | :          | :       | :      | :      | :      |
| Outer Mongolia.....     | :4/        | -       | -      | -      | -      |
| India.....              | Dec. 31 1/ | 1,850   | -      | 1,556  | 1,520  |
| Indochina.....          | :7/        | 105     | 1/     | -      | -      |
| Indonesia.....          | :1/        | 652     | 596    | -      | 503    |
| Japan.....              | :1/        | 1,330   | 1,067  | 1,062  | 1,112  |
| Pakistan.....           | Dec. 31 1/ | 535 :4/ | 470    | -      | 470    |
| Philippine Islands..... | :4/        | 340     | 181    | 207    | 214    |
| Thailand.....           | :Mar. 31   | 364     | -      | -      | 62     |
| Estimated total.....    | :          | 15,800  | 12,500 | 12,700 | 12,800 |
|                         |            |         |        |        | 12,900 |

## SOUTH AMERICA

[illegible]

AFRICA

|   |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Algeria.....                                    | 176   | 201   | 209   | 215   | -     | -     |
| French Morocco <u>2/</u> .....Dec. 31 <u>1/</u> | 216   | 170   | 165   | 179   | 190   | -     |
| Nigeria and Cameroons.....                      | 179   | -     | -     | 212   | -     | -     |
| Tunisia.....                                    | 108   | 80    | 66    | 70    | -     | -     |
| Union of South Africa.....August                | 778   | 4/    | 712   | -     | -     | -     |
| Estimated total.....                            | 3,100 | 3,900 | 3,800 | 3,900 | 3,900 | 3,900 |

OCEANIA

|                            |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Australia.....             | Mar. 31 | 1,761  | 1,159  | 1,057  | 999    | 937    | -      |
| New Zealand.....           | Jan. 31 | 274    | 204    | 195    | 184    | 174    | -      |
| Estimated total.....       |         | 2,100  | 1,400  | 1,300  | 1,200  | 1,100  | 1,100  |
| Estimated world total..... |         | 96,400 | 75,700 | 76,400 | 76,400 | 76,100 | 75,200 |

Estimated world total.....: 96,400 : 75,700 : 76,400 : 76,100 : 75,200

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Austria the December 3, 1949 estimate of 282,000 head is shown under 1950. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average of 1930 and 1940 censuses. 4/ Census or estimate for single year. 5/ March. 6/ September. 7/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 8/ A new series of estimates was inaugurated by the Directorate of Veterinary Service in 1951. 9/ Data include only number taxed.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable - June, 1953.

WORK STOCK: Number in specified European and other countries, averages 1934-38 and 1946-50, annual 1950-1952

| Continent and country   | Month of estimate | Horses, work |         |         |         | Mules and asses |          |       |       | Oxen and work cows |          |       |       | Water buffaloes |       |      |      |
|---|-------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|----------|-------|-------|--------------------|----------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------|------|------|
|   |                   | Thousands    |         |         |         | Thousands       |          |       |       | Thousands          |          |       |       | Thousands       |       |      |      |
|   |                   | Average      | 1950    | 1951    | 1952    | Average         | 1950     | 1951  | 1952  | Average            | 1950     | 1951  | 1952  | Average         | 1950  | 1951 | 1952 |
| Prevar 3:1946-50:Prevar 3:1946-50:Prevar 3:1946-50:Prevar 3:1946-50:Prevar 3:1946-50: |                   |              |         |         |         |                 |          |       |       |                    |          |       |       |                 |       |      |      |
| NORTH AMERICA   |                   |              |         |         |         |                 |          |       |       |                    |          |       |       |                 |       |      |      |
| Canada.....   | June 1            | 2,457        | 5/1,819 | 5/1,614 | 5/1,361 | 5/1,143         | -        | -     | -     | -                  | -        | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Mexico.....   | June              | 2,199        | -       | 9/2,900 | -       | 9/2,800         | 3,084    | -     | -     | 3,500              | -        | -     | 3,500 | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| United States.....  | Jan. 1            | 5/10,373     | 5/6,345 | 5/5,233 | 5/4,724 | 5/4,096         | 4,621    | 2,605 | 2,074 | 1,913              | -        | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Cuba.....   | Dec. 31           | 582          | 5/408   | -       | 5/412   | -               | 79       | -     | -     | -                  | -        | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| EUROPE  |                   |              |         |         |         |                 |          |       |       |                    |          |       |       |                 |       |      |      |
| Austria.....  | Dec. 3            | 224          | 225     | 217     | 219     | 219             | 1        | 2     | 2     | 2                  | 2        | 2     | 2     | 2               | 2     | 2    | 2    |
| Belgium.....  | Jan. 1            | 164          | 180     | 192     | 198     | 189             | 9/12     | 3     | 2     | -                  | -        | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Denmark.....  | July              | 425          | 425     | 399     | 383     | 354             | -        | -     | -     | -                  | -        | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Finland.....  | Mar. 1            | 318          | 316     | 339     | -       | -               | -        | -     | -     | -                  | -        | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| France.....   | Fall 1            | 2,314        | 1,832   | 1,864   | 1,865   | 1,856           | 331      | 195   | 195   | 192                | 4,700    | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Germany, Western.....   | Dec. 1            | 1,256        | 1,227   | 1,208   | 1,200   | 1,180           | -        | 5     | 4     | 4                  | 2,286    | 2,330 | 2,153 | 2,101           | 2,028 | -    | 69   |
| Greece.....   | Dec. 31           | 262          | 173     | 171     | 186     | 216             | 585      | 493   | 517   | 570                | 431      | 307   | 301   | 333             | 381   | 57   | 62   |
| Ireland.....  | June              | 327          | 338     | 317     | 302     | 286             | 168      | 126   | 119   | 106                | 101      | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Italy.....  | 11/               | 831          | -       | -       | -       | -               | 1,370    | 1,048 | 1,157 | 1,169              | 11/2,063 | -     | -     | 15              | -     | -    | -    |
| Netherlands.....  | May               | 231          | 289     | 252     | 250     | 241             | -        | -     | -     | -                  | -        | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Norway.....   | June 20           | 156          | 184     | 176     | 170     | 164             | -        | -     | -     | -                  | -        | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Portugal.....   | Dec. 31           | 71           | -       | -       | -       | -               | 397      | -     | 250   | -                  | 7/       | 7/    | 7/    | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Spain.....  | Dec. 31           | 466          | 500     | -       | -       | -               | 13/2,190 | 1,900 | -     | -                  | 13/1,900 | 2,000 | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Sweden.....   | Summer            | 451          | 401     | 380     | 355     | -               | -        | -     | -     | -                  | -        | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Switzerland.....  | April             | 115          | 102     | 106     | 105     | 104             | 4        | 3     | 2     | -                  | 7/       | 7/    | 7/    | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| United Kingdom.....   | June              | 763          | 500     | 396     | 339     | 289             | 7        | 6     | -     | -                  | -        | -     | -     | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| Yugoslavia.....   | Jan. 1            | 1,017        | -       | -       | -       | -               | 139      | 165   | 191   | -                  | 7/       | 7/    | 7/    | -               | -     | -    | -    |
| ASIA  |                   |              |         |         |         |                 |          |       |       |                    |          |       |       |                 |       |      |      |
| Iran.....   | Mar. 21           | 328          | 350     | 365     | 366     | 360             | 1,186    | 1,285 | 1,322 | 1,330              | 7/       | 7/    | 7/    | 107             | 120   | 120  | 120  |
| Iraq.....   | June              | 150          | 189     | 184     | 184     | 180             | 380      | 448   | 393   | -                  | 7/       | 7/    | 7/    | 154             | 201   | -    | -    |
| Syria.....  | Dec. 31           | 58           | 58      | 98      | 100     | 101             | 149      | 284   | 335   | 357                | 7/       | 7/    | 7/    | 4               | 6     | 6    | 6    |
| Turkey.....   | Dec. 31           | 723          | -       | -       | -       | -               | 1,499    | 1,768 | 1,791 | 1,824              | 3,538    | -     | -     | 796             | 906   | 953  | 972  |
| British Malaya.....   | Dec. 31           | -            | -       | -       | -       | -               | -        | -     | -     | -                  | 7/       | 7/    | 7/    | 212             | 200   | 223  | 237  |
| Burma.....  | Dec. 31           | 52           | -       | -       | -       | -               | 2        | -     | -     | -                  | 7/       | 7/    | 7/    | 1,035           | 655   | -    | 766  |





